

Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services
2006 Wisconsin Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS)
Middle School Fact Sheet



The Wisconsin YTS is a comprehensive measure of youth awareness, attitudes, and related behaviors about tobacco use. The purpose of this survey is to monitor trends of these attitudes and behaviors to assist in improving youth programs and initiatives. The 2006 Wisconsin YTS was funded by the Department of Health and Family Services' Tobacco Prevention and Control Program.

The Wisconsin YTS is a school-based survey of students in grades 6-8, conducted every spring semester of the academic year beginning in 1999-2000. Fifty schools were randomly selected in 2006 to participate in this survey. Classrooms in the selected schools were also randomly selected. All students in the selected classes were eligible to participate. The overall middle school response rate for the 2006 YTS was 86.0%. A total of 1,892 public middle schools students in 43 middle schools participated in the Wisconsin YTS in 2006, for a student response rate of 88.5%. Overall response rate was 76.1%.

<p><u>Prevalence</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 31.1% of students have used a tobacco product in their lifetime (6th grade=21.5%, 7th grade=31.7%, 8th grade=39.5%) • 22.4% have smoked cigarettes in their lifetime (6th grade=12.4%, 7th grade=24.0%, 8th grade=30.2%) • 8.9% currently use any tobacco product (Male=9.6%, Female=8.0%) • 5.8% currently smoke cigarettes (6th grade=2.3%, 7th grade=6.1%, 8th grade=9%) • 1.9% currently use smokeless tobacco or chew (Male=3.0%, Female=.6%) <p><u>Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 43.2% live in homes where others smoke • 48.7% were in the same room as others who smoke during the week • 92.2% think that smoke from other people's cigarettes is harmful to them <p><u>Cessation – Current Smokers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50.1% want to stop smoking • 63.7% attempted to quit smoking during the past 12 months <p><u>Media</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 70.8% have seen or heard commercials about the dangers of cigarette smoking within the past 30 days • 82.0% have seen ads for tobacco products on the internet, TV, or at the movies <p><u>School</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 72.4% were taught in class about the dangers of tobacco use • 1.8% smoked on school property in the past month <p><u>Community</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19.2% participated in a community event to discourage tobacco use <p><u>Access and Availability – Current Smoker < 18 years old</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3.2% buy cigarettes in a store • 19.0% gave money to someone else to buy cigarettes during the past 30 days 	<p><u>Middle School Highlights</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5.8% of public middle school youth are current cigarette smokers. • 31.1% have used a tobacco product in their lifetime. • 22.4% of public middle school students have tried smoking cigarettes. • Current smokeless tobacco use has remained relatively the same over the past four years at 1.9%. • ETS exposure is high – nearly 5 in 10 students were in the same room with smokers during the past week. • Half of current smokers want to stop smoking. • 7 out of 10 students saw or heard anti-smoking media messages in the past month. • More than 7 out of 10 students were taught about the dangers of tobacco in class.
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